

Remarks

Applicant is presently filing a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §132 and 37 CFR §1.114.

A Notice of Allowance was issued January 22, 2004 in this application. The accompanying Notice of Allowability indicated that claims 25-73 are allowed. A review of the prosecution reveals, however, that claims 35-37 were cancelled and that claims 38-41 were withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement. Accordingly, unless the restriction requirement was withdrawn in part, the allowed claims should have been 25-34 and 42-73.

In accordance with the present RCE, applicant is submitting an amendment to the claims, which cancels non-elected claims 1-24 and 38-41, and an amendment to the first paragraph of the specification which corrects a misstatement in the original cross-reference to the earlier filed related applications.

Applicant is also submitting herewith an Information Disclosure Statement listing additional references which the examiner is requested to consider and make of record in this application.

The appropriate fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(e) is enclosed. If the fee calculation is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to the account of the undersigned

attorneys, Deposit Account 04-1406. A duplicate of the accompanying fee transmittal sheet is enclosed for fee processing.

Early and favorable consideration of this RCE is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PJH:cmb